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March 6, 1998

RECEIVED

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Hon. A. Richard Metzger, Jr.
Chief, Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Request for Expedited Declaratory Ruling
Administration of the North American Numbering Plan, Carrier Identification Codes (CICs), CC Docket 92-237, Order on Reconsideration, Order on Application for Review, and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, (Oct. 22, 1997) (CIC Reconsideration Order)

Dear Mr. Metzger:

BellSouth requests your advice and assistance in connection with the proper interpretation of the requirements of the *CIC Reconsideration Order* as they relate to blocking the use of three-digit CICs.

In its November 26, 1997 Petition for Clarification of the *CIC Reconsideration Order*, BellSouth explained that blocking three-digit CICs can only be accomplished in a phased manner. BellSouth also explained that the *CIC Reconsideration Order* contains requirements that both three-digit and four-digit CICs are to be permissively used during the six month transition to four-digit CIC use (January 1, 1998 to June 30, 1998), and that "only four-digit CICs" will be recognized thereafter. BellSouth explained that it was uncertain whether it should begin phasing in three-digit CIC blocking during the permissive dialing transition period, which would ensure that "only four-digit CICs" will be recognized after June 30, but will not allow full permissive three- or four-digit CIC dialing during the transition period, or whether it should begin phasing in three-digit CIC blocking July 1, 1998, which will ensure full permissive dialing during the transition period but may allow inadvertently dialed three-digit CICs to be recognized during the two month phased implementation period, depending on when and where such calls are dialed.

MCI filed comments conditionally supporting BellSouth's interpretation of the Order on December 4, 1997. The Commission issued a Public Notice on BellSouth's Petition on December 8, 1997.¹ Public Notice of the Petition was published in the Federal Register on December 12, 1997. Public comments were filed on December 29, 1997 and reply comments were filed on January 13, 1998. AT&T controverts BellSouth's interpretation of the Order and its request for clarification. No party controverts BellSouth's representation that phased blocking is the only appropriate way to engineer the network transition, but there remains obvious controversy and resulting uncertainty over when phased blocking should begin.

BellSouth explained in its Petition that it needed clarification by May 1, 1998, in order to timely comply with a requirement that absolutely no three-digit CICs are to pass after June 30. BellSouth is concerned that, given the current workload of the agency, there is a reasonable likelihood that the full Commission will not be able to address the BellSouth Petition along with the America One Petition for Reconsideration and issue the desired clarification before May. BellSouth therefore requests that, pursuant to proper delegated authority, the Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau remove the present uncertainty and terminate the controversy concerning the appropriate time to implement phased blocking of three-digit CICs.

A complete record has been developed, a copy of which is attached hereto. As BellSouth has not requested reconsideration or any other rulemaking action, BellSouth believes that a Bureau response which terminates the current controversy and removes the uncertainty described in the BellSouth petition will render the BellSouth Petition moot, and render further Commission action on the Petition unnecessary. See 47 C.F.R. § 0.091(f). Upon receipt of such action, BellSouth will formally withdraw the Petition currently pending before the Commission.

¹ The Public Notice also pertained to a Petition for Reconsideration filed by America One Communications, Inc., November 20, 1997. The instant request is limited to resolving the uncertainty described in BellSouth's Petition for Clarification, and the controversy over the correct interpretation of the *CIC Reconsideration Order* that emerged in the record, and not the merits of the America One Petition for Reconsideration.

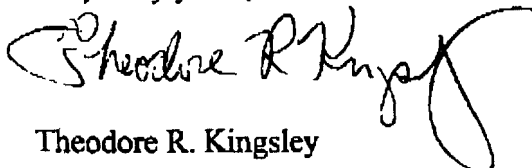
Hon. A. Richard Metzger

March 6, 1998

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me in Atlanta or Ben Almond in our Washington, D.C. office at (202) 463-4112.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore R. Kingsley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Theodore R. Kingsley

cc: Geraldine A. Matisse (w/encl.)
Kris Anne Monteith (w/encl.)
Renee Alexander (w/encl.)
Ben G. Almond (w/encl.)

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)

Administration of the)

North American Numbering Plan)

Carrier Identification Codes (CICs))

CC Docket No. 92-237

PETITION FOR CLARIFICATION

BellSouth Corporation,¹ on behalf of its affiliated companies,² by counsel, files its Petition for Clarification of a limited portion of the Order on Reconsideration, Order on Application for Review, and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-referenced docket.³

I. THE COMMISSION SHOULD CLARIFY THAT LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS MAY ARRANGE FOR PHASED BLOCKING OF THREE DIGIT CICs BEGINNING JUNE 30, 1998.

In the CIC Reconsideration Order, the Commission modified its decision in the CICs Second Report and Order regarding the length of the transition during which three and four-digit Feature Group D CICs co-exist, and created a "two-step" end to the transition:

By January 1, 1998, the end of the first phase, all LECs that provide equal access must have completed switch changes to recognize four-digit CICs. The second

¹ BellSouth Corporation (BSC) is a publicly traded Georgia corporation that holds the stock of companies which offer local telephone service, provide advertising and publishing services, market and maintain stand-alone and fully integrated communications systems, and provide mobile communications and other network services world-wide.

² BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., a Bell operating company providing wireline telephone exchange and exchange access service in parts of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee ("BST"), participated with BSC in the preparation of this Petition.

³ Administration of the North American Numbering Plan Carrier Identification Codes (CICs), CC Docket No. 92-237, *Order on Reconsideration, Order on Application for Review, And Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order* (October 22, 1997) ("CIC Reconsideration Order").

phase, which ends on June 30, 1998, is intended to allow interexchange carriers (IXCs) time to prepare their networks for, and educate their customers about, the replacement of three-digit CICs by four-digit CICs. After that date, only four-digit CICs and seven digit CACs will be recognized. We also affirm our decision in the CICs Second Report and Order not to grandfather the use of three-digit CICs and five-digit CACs that are in use during the transition. After June 30, 1998, all CICs will be four digits in length.⁴

BST will have completed all changes necessary in its equal access switches to recognize four-digit CICs by January 1, 1998. However, blocking the use of three-digit CICs at these switches can only be accomplished in a phased manner, a process that BellSouth estimates will take two months.⁵ Thus, if it is the Commission's intent in the CIC Reconsideration Order to have "extended" the permissive dialing period established in the CICs Second Report and Order during which customers may dial either a four-digit or a three-digit CIC with the assurance that their call will complete, BellSouth will begin to block three-digit CICs beginning July 1, 1998. After July 1, 1998, four-digit CICs must be used in order to assure call completion. If a three-digit CIC is used, the call may or may not complete, depending on whether three-digit CIC blocking has been implemented in the particular central office to which the calls are routed. By September 1, 1998, three-digit blocking will have been implemented in all of BST's central offices and calls can only be routed if a four-digit CIC is used.

On the other hand, if it is the Commission's intent that absolutely no call complete using a three-digit CIC after July 1, 1998, then BellSouth must begin phasing in three-digit CIC blocking in its central office switches on May 1, 1998. The result will be that three-digit CIC dialing will no longer be "permissive" during the last two months of the second phase of the Commission's

⁴ CIC Reconsideration Order at ¶¶4, 20.

⁵ As a matter of engineering, three-digit CIC blocking cannot be flash-cut in each and every BST switch.

two-step transition. Rather, calls made using three-digit CICs may or may not complete, depending on whether the three-digit CIC blocking has been implemented in the central office to which the call is routed.

BellSouth believes that, notwithstanding language in the CIC Reconsideration Order stating that only four-digit CICs may be used after June 30, 1998, the Commission intended that three-digit CIC use remain permissive for all carriers and their customers throughout the entire period of the second phase of the two-step transition. Therefore, requiring phased implementation of three-digit CIC blocking during the second phase of the Commission's two-step transition order to assure that absolutely no three-digit CICs will be routed on July 1, 1998 would frustrate the permissive dialing period and complicate IXC efforts to educate customers on when four-digit CICs must be used. Customers who are advised that mandatory four-digit CIC dialing must begin July 1, 1998 will find that, after May 1, 1998, calls dialed using three-digit CICs may or may not complete.

On the other hand, if three-digit CIC blocking is allowed to be phased in over a two month period beginning July 1, 1998, the Commission's policy objectives as set out in this proceeding will be achieved. Customers can be notified that they have to use four-digit CICs beginning July 1, 1998. If a customer inadvertently dials a three-digit CIC, the call may complete if three-digit blocking has not yet been implemented in the particular central office pursuant to the LECs phased implementation schedule. But this result will only be temporary, during the phase-in period of three-digit CIC blocking. The benefits of uniform customer notification efforts outweigh the limited, arbitrary and temporary instances of three-digit CIC call completion that will occur after July 1, 1998, when mandatory four-digit CIC use begins.

BellSouth requests that the Commission clarify both that (1) BST may, consistent with the CIC Reconsideration Order, begin phased implementation of three-digit CIC blocking on July 1, 1998; and (2) BST may, consistent with the CIC Reconsideration Order, maintain effective tariffs for three-digit CIC call routing and charges occurring on or after July 1, 1998, to cover calls completed during the three-digit CIC blocking phased implementation period.

In the alternative, if it is the Commission's intent that absolutely no three-digit CICs be used after June 30, 1998, BellSouth requests that the Commission clarify that BST may, consistent with the CIC Reconsideration Order, begin phased implementation of three-digit CIC blocking within its central offices beginning May 1, 1998, that BST may block such calls without liability, and that IXCs must notify their customers that three-digit CICs may not be available in all parts of BST's service territory after May 1, 1998. BellSouth further requests that the Commission issue its clarification in time to allow BST to begin implementing three-digit CIC blocking in a manner that will comply with the Commission's intent.

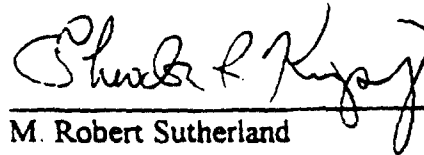
CONCLUSION

The Commission should clarify that, consistent with its CIC Reconsideration Order, LECs may begin phased implementation of three-digit CIC blocking beginning July 1, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

BELLSOUTH CORPORATION

By:



M. Robert Sutherland
Theodore R. Kingsley

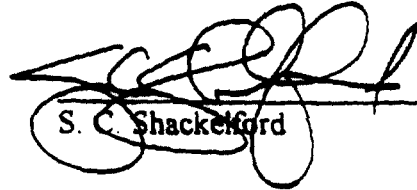
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DATE: November 26, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that I have this 26th day of November, 1997, served all parties to this action with a copy of the foregoing **BELLSOUTH COMMENTS** by placing a true and correct copy of same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the parties listed on the attached service list.



S. C. Shackelford

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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* BY HAND

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)

Administration of the)
North American Numbering Plan)
Carrier Identification Codes (CICs))

CC Docket No. 92-237

**COMMENTS OF MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
IN SUPPORT OF BELL SOUTH'S PETITION FOR CLARIFICATION**

MCI Communications Corporation, (MCI) by counsel, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.106, hereby submits these comments in support of the Petition For Clarification (Petition) filed by BellSouth Corporation (BellSouth) on November 23, 1997. In its Petition, BellSouth asks the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) to clarify its order extending the time period during which 3- and 4-digit carrier identification codes (CICs) may be used.¹ Specifically, BellSouth requests that the Commission clarify that local exchange carriers (LECs) may begin phased implementation of three-digit CIC blocking on July 1, 1998. For the reasons set forth below, MCI agrees with BellSouth that the Commission should clarify the CIC Reconsideration Order consistent with BellSouth's request, on the condition that BellSouth and other similarly situated carriers be required to publicly disclose their pre-implementation and quality control plans.

¹ Administration of the North American Numbering Plan Carrier Identification Codes (CICs), CC Docket No. 92-237, Order on Reconsideration, Order on Application For Review, and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (October 22, 1997) (CIC Reconsideration Order).

BellSouth's Petition advises that blocking the use of 3-digit CICs in BellSouth's switches can only be accomplished using a phased approach, which BellSouth estimates will take two months.² As a result, BellSouth states that it must begin to reject 3-digit CICs two months before the date upon which the Commission has ordered the elimination of 3-digit CICs. BellSouth's Petition points out that if the Commission's CIC Reconsideration Order is interpreted to prohibit the use of 3-digit CICs under any circumstances beginning on July 1, 1998, BellSouth will be forced to reject 3-digit CICs in some of its switches a full two months before June 30, 1998.³

BellSouth notes that if the Commission fails to clarify the CIC Reconsideration Order to allow BellSouth to begin phased implementation on July 1, 1998, it will frustrate the permissive dialing period and complicate interexchange carrier (IXC) efforts to educate customers regarding the date upon which 4-digit CICs must be used.⁴ BellSouth thus requests that the Commission clarify that its CIC Reconsideration Order is not intended to have this disruptive effect, and that BellSouth may begin phased implementation on July 1, 1998, instead of on May 1, 1998,⁵ in order to allow for the two months necessary to reconfigure its switches.

² BellSouth Petition, p. 2.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*, p.3

⁵ MCI is aware through industry group meetings that several Regional Bell Operating Companies have been generally opposed to any flash cut from 3-digit to 4-digit CICs. Indeed, BellSouth cannot possibly flash-out each and every BellSouth switch. See BellSouth Petition, p.2 n.5. MCI therefore requests that, if the Commission allows BellSouth's phased implementation to commence on July 1, 1998, it should clarify that all LECs that must use a phased implementation approach may initiate their switch changes on July 1 as well. Such clarification will further the Commission's goal of promoting an efficient nationwide communication service.

7

1. DENIAL OF BELL SOUTH'S PETITION WOULD RENDER MEANINGLESS THE COMMISSION'S EXTENSION OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD FOR A FULL TWO MONTHS.

In the CIC Reconsideration Order, the Commission stated that by extending the transition period, it "intended to ensure the orderly transition from three to four-digit CICs and to ensure the nondiscriminatory treatment of all CIC holders."⁶ It further stated that consumers' inability to access services during the transition period "would be contrary to the pro-competitive goals of the 1996 Act."⁷ Based on these principles, the Commission extended the period during which 3- and 4-digit CICs may be used until June 30, 1998, and LECs must continue to accept 3-digit CICs until that time. If, as BellSouth states, it must phase implementation in its switches over a two-month period, it will necessarily begin blocking 3-digit CICs prior to June 30 in violation of the Commission's CIC Reconsideration Order. This will result in thousands of consumers being denied the benefits of using 3-digit CICs for two months, thus rendering meaningless the Commission's extension for this two-month time period. Additionally, IXCs such as MCI would be denied the full promise of the additional time ordered by the Commission to reconfigure their networks and notify their customers of the new dialing pattern.

If BellSouth is not allowed to phase implementation beginning on July 1, the effect will be partial nullification of the extended transition period for thousands of consumers and IXCs in BellSouth's territory. Extension of the transition period by the Commission was clearly designed to provide the industry with an additional six months to reconfigure networks and educate consumers. The Commission should not now

⁶ CIC Reconsideration Order, ¶ 91.

reverse itself by forcing LECs like BellSouth to take actions that shorten the transition period. Rather, the Commission should clarify that if a LEC requires a certain period of time to phase in the transition from 3- to 4-digit CICs, it should be allowed to do so, beginning on July 1, so as not to eviscerate the Commission's extended transition period.

II. IF THE COMMISSION GRANTS BELLSOUTH'S PETITION, IT SHOULD REQUIRE BELLSOUTH, AND ANY SIMILARLY SITUATED LEC, TO DISCLOSE ITS IMPLEMENTATION PLANS.

In the CIC Reconsideration Order, the Commission recognized the need to "give IXCs the time they need to coordinate the conversion with LECs, and to prepare their networks and educate their customers about necessary dialing changes."⁷ These coordination efforts are already underway, and industry participants meet regularly to discuss the many details associated with accomplishing a smooth and orderly transition to 4-digit CIC dialing, with as little customer confusion as possible.

If the Commission allows phased implementation by LECs, it will be extremely important to also require that LECs make public their pre-implementation and quality control plans. If a LEC is able to implement blocking of 3-digit CICs without providing advance notice of which end offices will be reconfigured, and on what date, MCI will be at a considerable competitive disadvantage and will be unable to effect its own network reconfigurations and customer education efforts in a seamless fashion.

MCI asks that the Commission require that all LECs planning phased implementation in their switches be required to disclose their pre-implementation and

⁷ *Id.*, ¶ 21.

⁸ CIC Reconsideration Order, ¶ 25.

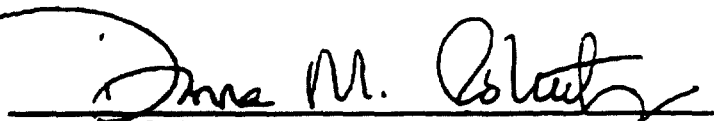
quality control plans. This includes those LECs that have received extensions of time to upgrade their switches to accept 4-digit CICs.⁹

The LECs' pre-implementation and quality control plans should contain, at a minimum, the following: (1) weekly updates of plans to reconfigure LEC end offices, at least 60 days in advance of the date upon which the LEC intends to reconfigure that end office; (2) weekly updates on each LECs' reconfiguration plans, and whether those plans were met, and, if not, why not; and (3) weekly updates describing any changes to reconfiguration plans and the reasons for those changes. Disclosure of this information will encourage the coordinated conversion from 3- to 4-digit dialing that is contemplated by the Commission's CIC Reconsideration Order.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, MCI requests that the Commission grant BellSouth's Petition, on the condition that BellSouth and other similarly situated LECs publicly disclose their pre-implementation and quality control plans as described herein.

Respectfully submitted,

MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION



Donna M. Roberts
1801 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 887-2017
Its Attorneys

December 4, 1997

⁹ See *Administration of the North American Numbering Plan Carrier Identification Codes (CICs)*, CC Docket No. 92-237, Order (December 3, 1997) (granting several LECs' petitions for extension of time to complete switch changes to recognize 4-digit CICs).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, John E. Ferguson III, do hereby certify that copies of the foregoing Comments of MCI on the Matter of the Administration of the North American Numbering Plan Carrier Identification Codes (CICs) were sent, on this 4th day of December, 1997, via first-class mail, postage pre-paid, to the following:

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Mr. Richard Metzger**
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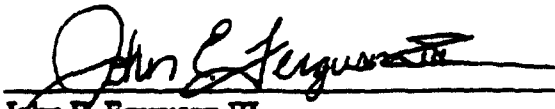
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****HAND DELIVERED****


John E. Ferguson III



PUBLIC NOTICE

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P120897L

Report No. 2242

December 8, 1997

PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION AND CLARIFICATION OF ACTION IN
RULEMAKING PROCEEDINGS

Petitions for reconsideration and clarification have been filed in the Commission's rulemaking proceedings listed in this Public Notice and published pursuant to 47 CFR Section 1.429(e). The full text of these documents are available for viewing and copying in Room 239, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. or may be purchase form the Commission's copy contractor, ITS, Inc. (202) 857-3800. Oppositions to these petitions must be filed within 15 days of the date of public notice of the petitions in the Federal Register. See Section 1.4(b)(1) of the Commission's rules (47 CFR 1.4(b)(1)). Replies to an opposition must be filed within 10 days after the time for filing oppositions has expired.

SUBJECT: Administration of the North American Numbering Plan Carrier
Identification Codes (CICS) (CC Docket No. 92-237)

FILED BY: -Todd Daubert, Attorney for America One Communications, Inc. on 11-20-97.
-Theodore R. Kingsley, Attorney for BellSouth Corporation on 11-26-97.

-FCC-

Drainage, Special-Use Permit Issuance, Illinois Valley Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, Curry County, OR.

Summary: Review of the Final EIS was not deemed necessary. No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-AFS-L65278-ID, Middle Fork Analysis Area Management Plan, Implementation, Nez Perce National Forest, Selway Ranger District, Idaho County, ID.

Summary: Review of the Final EIS was not deemed necessary. No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-BLM-K67045-NV, Florida Canyon Mine Expansion Project and Comprehensive Reclamation Plan, Construction and Operation of New Facilities and Expansion of Existing Gold Mining Operations in Inlay Mining District, Plan-of-Operation Approval and Right-of-Way Permit Issuance, Pershing County, NV.

Summary: Review of the Final EIS was not deemed necessary. No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-DOE-L91001-ID, Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery Program, Implementation, Restore Chenook Salmon to the Clearwater River Subbasin, Snake River, Idaho.

Summary: Review of the Final EIS has been completed and the project found to be satisfactory.

ERP No. F-IBR-K31018-AZ, Programmatic EIS—Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project, Construction and Operation, Maricopa and Pinal Counties, AZ.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concern over the large scope of the proposed action and potential adverse environmental impacts. EPA recommended prioritization of project components for implementation with primary emphasis on rehabilitation of existing irrigation systems and agricultural areas. EPA also strongly advocated monitoring and adaptive management and urged full integration of the Community's comprehensive water management plan. EPA urged implementation of the demonstration Riparian Habitat Area as soon as feasible.

Dated: December 9, 1997.

William D. Dickerson,
Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 97-32568 Filed 12-11-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6840-60-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[Report No. 2241]

Petitions for Reconsideration and Clarification of Action in Rulemaking Proceedings

December 8, 1997.

Petitions for reconsideration and clarification have been filed in the Commission's rulemaking proceedings listed in this Public Notice and published pursuant to 47 CFR Section 1.429(e). The full text of these documents are available for viewing and copying in Room 239, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. or may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, ITS, Inc. (202) 857-3800. Oppositions to these petitions must be filed December 29, 1997. See Section 1.4(b)(1) of the Commission's rule (47 CFR 1.4(b)(1)). Replies to an opposition must be filed within 10 days after the time for filing oppositions has expired.

Subject: Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding Installment Payment Financing For Personal Communications Services (PCS) Licensees (WT Docket No. 97-82).

Number of Petitions Filed: 37.

Federal Communications Commission,
Magalie Roman Sales,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-32518 Filed 12-11-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6712-01-M

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[Report No. 2242]

Petitions for Reconsideration and Clarification of Action in Rulemaking Proceedings

December 8, 1997.

Petitions for reconsideration and clarification have been filed in the Commission's rulemaking proceedings listed in this Public Notice and published pursuant to 47 CFR Section 1.429(e). The full text of these documents are available for viewing and copying in Room 239, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. or may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, ITS, Inc. (202) 857-3800. Oppositions to these petitions must be filed December 29, 1997. See § 1.4(b)(1) of the Commission's rule (47 CFR 1.4(b)(1)). Replies to an opposition must be filed within 10 days after the time for filing oppositions has expired.

Subject: Administration of the North American Numbering Plan Carrier

Identification Codes (CICS) (CC Docket No. 92-237).

Number of Petitions Filed: 2.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Sales,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-32519 Filed 12-11-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-M

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Sunshine Act Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b), notice is hereby given that at 10:58 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 1997, the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation met in closed session to consider (1) reports from the Office of Inspector General, and (2) matters relating to the Corporation's corporate and supervisory activities.

In calling the meeting, the Board determined, on motion of Director Joseph H. Neely (Appointive), seconded by Director Eugene A. Ludwig (Comptroller of the Currency), concurred in by Director Ellen S. Seidman (Director, Office of Thrift Supervision), and Acting Chairman Andrew C. Hove, Jr., that Corporation business required its consideration of the matters on less than seven days' notice to the public; that no earlier notice of the meeting was practicable; that the public interest did not require consideration of the matters in a meeting open to public observation; and that the matters could be considered in a closed meeting by authority of subsections (c)(2), (c)(4), (c)(6), (c)(8), (c)(9)(A)(i), (c)(9)(B), and (c)(10) of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2), (c)(4), (c)(6), (c)(8), (c)(9)(A)(i), (c)(9)(B), and (c)(10)).

The meeting was held in the Board Room of the FDIC Building located at 550 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Dated: December 9, 1997.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

James D. LaPierre,

Deputy Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-32647 Filed 12-10-97; 12:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 6714-01-M

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Notice of Agreement(s) Filed

The Commission hereby gives notice of the filing of the following

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Administration of the
North American Numbering Plan
Carrier Identification Codes (CICs)

CC Docket No. 92-237

COMMENTS OF SBC COMPANIES

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Pacific Bell and Nevada Bell (the SBC Companies) file these comments in support of the Petition for Clarification filed by BellSouth Corporation.

BellSouth's petition relates to how the blocking of three-digit CIC in all equal access switches can be performed. The Commission has ruled that "after June 30, 1998, all CICs will be four digits in length."¹ The Commission set out a 2 step transition process. The first phase, which expires January 1, 1998, requires all LECs to recognize four-digit CICs in their network. The second phase, which expires July 1, 1998, requires only four-digit CICs, and seven digit CACs to be recognized.

BellSouth, however, correctly points out that the blocking of existing three-digit CIC codes will take some time to institute throughout all central offices. BellSouth believes that the Commission intended that three-digit CICs remain permissive for all carriers and their customers throughout the entire second phase of the two-step transition

¹ Administration of the North American Numbering Plan Carrier Identification Codes, CC Docket 92-237, Order on Reconsideration, Order on Application for Review, and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order, released October 22, 1997 ("CIC reconsideration Order") at 4, 20.

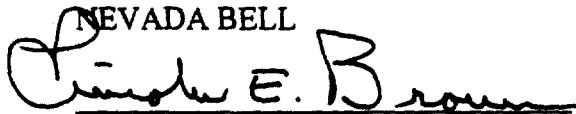
ordered in the CIC Reconsideration Order. An alternative reading of the CIC Reconsideration Order is that the blocking of three-digit CICs must begin prior to July 1, 1998 so that all switches can be completed by July 1, 1998. The issue, therefore, is whether July 1, 1998 is the date by which no three-digit CICs will be accepted, or whether the blocking 3-digit CICs should begin on July 1, 1998, and end at some point later after all switches have been converted.

The SBC Companies agree with BellSouth that a better reading of the order is for July 1, 1998 to be the date on which the conversion to three-digit CIC blocking should begin. That way, the entire transition period (from January 1, 1998 to July 1, 1998) can be used for carriers to educate customers about the new carrier access code dialing requirements. The SBC Companies have similar issues as BellSouth with respect to blocking of three-digit CICs in our network. We will need some period of time to change all of the switches in our network to stop accepting the three-digit CICs. Particularly with our DMS-100, it takes a significant amount of time to convert each office. We also need to coordinate with the carriers as they convert their trunk groups to four digit CICs. That period of time is necessary to ensure that each switch is updated to preclude recognizing the 10XXX dialing pattern, and to ensure that an appropriate message is played to callers who attempt to use a three-digit CIC. Also, during 1998, various other mandated implementations are scheduled to occur, including Local Number Portability, area code splits, and other local competition related items.

Therefore, the SBC Companies support the Bell Atlantic Petition for Clarification.

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE
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NEVADA BELL



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December 29, 1997
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